

The League of Women Voters of Newark

presents

Its First Observance of African-American History

**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Bernice Bass, Coordinator

LWV-Newark, First African-American History Observance

Sunday, February 25, 1990 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street
Newark, New Jersey

Supported in part by the

**State of New Jersey Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission**

HISTORY OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEWARK

Almost forty years ago, the League of Women Voters of Newark was one of the major organizations along with Newark's labor unions and church groups, to participate in spearheading the reform of Newark's form of government. The League was one of the five members of the charter study group who wrote the current city charter, which provides for separate executive and legislative authority. Today, the League of Women Voters of Newark remains a vital organization within the city, reflecting the changing climate within the community, but retaining a strong involvement in the effort to assure that citizens receive the best possible services and have adequate access to the knowledge they need to make informed judgments concerning local governmental issues. All information presented by the League reflects a non-partisan posture.

The League of Women Voters of Newark again emerged in the early 1980's as a force in assisting Newark's citizens to be informed about issues in city government. It has promoted voter registration and education programs in Newark's high schools and has sponsored annual forums to present the issues and candidates for Newark's Board of Education. In years of municipal elections, the League sponsors forums to discuss the issues with all candidates running for election. Since the League must adhere to the National mandate of being non-partisan, these forums have been particularly helpful to Newark's citizens since only the facts can be presented.

In addition the League has presented broad based programs covering the issues of housing, human needs, and educational funding which has enabled the community to address their concerns. The Newark League has also highlighted programs which the State League has promoted to discuss the role of independent authorities in political and economic life. Currently, the League is reviewing the functions of Newark's governmental departments as it prepares a "Know Your City" booklet.

The League of Women Voters of Newark feature a unique operational structure. Instead of traditional officer, this League utilizes a management team, which permits the development of a broad spectrum of leadership insuring continuity of the Newark League. The current management team consists of Dorothea Lee, Dorothy Knauer, E. Alma Flagg, Joyce Branch, Regina Marshall, Abbie Stebbins and Gigi Foushee as elected directors. Jean Bettis serves as secretary and Annette O'Flaherty as coordinator. Gwendolyn Long represents the Newark League on the state LWV Board where she is currently chairperson of the education committee.

The League of Women Voters of Newark is on the move and welcomes the support of the community as it strives to become an articulate and responsible voice for urban women in this state.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEWARK
PRESENTS
ITS FIRST OBSERVANCE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
"A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."
Sunday, February 26, 1990
PROGRAM

LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING.....Mrs. Evelyn Greene
President, Metro Chapter
National Assoc. of Negro
Musicians

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF NARRATOR.....Ms. Dorothea Lee
Program Chairperson
LWV-Newark

MRS. BERNICE BASS, COORDINATOR
LWV-NEWARK FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY
OBSERVANCE

GREETINGS.....The Honorable Sharpe James
Mayor, City of Newark *John D. Battle*

ORIGIN OF NATIONAL OBSERVANCE
OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY.....

Mr. Philip Thomas
Executive Director,
Woodson Foundation

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Evelyn Greene *PL 6*

MANDATE BY N. J. STATE LEGISLATURE
TO INTEGRATE TEACHING OF
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY.....

making Birthday of Mrs. Owens
Mr. Ronald Owens
Former N. J. State
Assemblyman *national holiday*

EXCERPTS FROM WRITINGS OF

W. E. B. DUBOIS.....Rev. James Howard, Pastor
Pentecostal Church of Christ

~~MUSICAL SELECTION.....Mrs. Evelyn Greene~~

ROLL CALL OF FORTY CIVIL RIGHTS

MURDERED MARTYRS.....Rev. James Howard *✓*
Acc. Mrs. Howard

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Mrs. Mattie Moultrie Wilson
President, Delene Prod.
Producer/Director--
"Tambourines to Glory"

Arrival: Mrs. Bernice Bass
DON'T BOTHER ME I CAN'T COPE.....Mrs. Betty Neals

EVOLUTION OF BLACK POLITICAL
EMPOWERMENT IN NEWARK.....

Preserved
The Honorable Larrie Stalks
Essex County Register

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Mrs. Mattie Moultrie Wilson

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN NEWARK.....Mrs. Connie Woodruff
Will King's testimony spoke about this topic
the Freedom
Progressive
to help *J. Brown*
Chairperson of the
N. J. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Mr. Kenneth G. Brown
Choir Director, Instructor
of Music, N. Y. City Schools

ROLE OF THE N. J. STATE LEGISLATURE
IN MAKING DR. KING'S BIRTHDAY A
NATIONAL HOLIDAY.....Mr. Ronald Owens

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SPEAKS TO YOUNG PEOPLE.....Recorded Excerpts

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Mr. Kenneth G. Brown

LEARNING FROM A WOMAN.....The Honorable
Wynona P. Lipman *the family know this family*
N. J. State Senator

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Mr. Kenneth G. Brown
Abraham Martin & John
Congressman Donald Payne

ORIGINAL POEMS DEDICATED TO
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.....Dr. E. Alma Flagg
Mr. Larry Pendleton
Mrs. Betty Neals

IN DR. KING'S OWN WORDS.....Recorded Excerpts

PRECIOUS MEMORIES:.....Mrs. Mattie Moultrie Wilson
MAHALIA & MARTIN IN CHICAGO
and Mr. Kenneth G. Brown
MUSICAL SELECTIONS accompanied by cast members
"Tambourines to Glory"

WHEN MAHALIA SINGS.....Mrs. Bobbie Reilly
Former Councilwoman
Montclair, New Jersey

THE MAKING OF A CHICAGO RALLY
AS TOLD BY MAHALIA JACKSON.....Mrs. Bernice Bass
Veteran Broadcaster &
Coordinator

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....Ms. Dorothea Lee

"WE SHALL OVERCOME.....Mr. Kenneth G. Brown

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